

REVEREND CLERGY, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL, PUBLIC OFFICIALS, FAMILY, FRIENDS AND CITIZENS OF PEABODY.

IT IS AN HONOR FOR ME TO STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY, AS YOUR MAYOR, TO REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF OUR CITY AT THE MID-POINT OF MY CURRENT TERM OF OFFICE.

I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL PRESIDENT GERRY RIZZO. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH GERRY TO KEEP OUR CITY ON A STEADY COURSE AND MAKE SURE WE ARE PREPARED TO MEET THE CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD.

A YEAR AGO IN MY INAUGURAL ADDRESS I HAD OUTLINED A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES FOR THIS TERM OF OFFICE. THIS MORNING I WOULD LIKE TO REPORT ON THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE AS WELL AS LOOKING AHEAD TO 1997.

IN MY LAST INAUGURAL ADDRESS I HAD STATED THAT FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR OUR CITY WAS ONE OF OUR

PRIMARY GOALS. AS WE READ EACH DAY THE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS PLAGUING SO MANY COMMUNITIES AND MORE RECENTLY THE FINANCIAL DISASTER CONFRONTING MOST COUNTIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH, I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT OUR FINANCIAL HOUSE IS IN ORDER.

IT WILL TAKE THE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES COULD BE AS WELL AS A COMMITMENT TO RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF OUR RESOURCES AND PRUDENT SPENDING OF OUR TAXPAYERS DOLLARS TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

I AM ALSO PLEASED TO REPORT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN OUR AA-1 BOND RATING, PROVIDING OUR CITIZENS WITH THE LOWEST TAX RATE IN ESSEX COUNTY, AND THE LARGEST UNTAXED LEVY IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

ACHIEVING THESE GOALS AND KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON OUR FINANCES WILL HELP US ENTER THE 21ST CENTURY,

PREPARED TO MEET THE CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD AND AVOID THE FINANCIAL PERILS FACING SO MANY COMMUNITIES. SIMPLY PUT, LIKE A MOVING SHIP ON A STORMY SEA, STEADY AS SHE GOES SHOULD BE THE WATCH WORDS.

LAST JANUARY I ANNOUNCED THAT THE START OF CONSTRUCTION WOULD TAKE PLACE ON OUR \$12.8 MILLION DOLLAR WATER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE PROJECT IS MORE THAN 50% COMPLETED; WE ARE ON SCHEDULE AND ON BUDGET, AND COMPLETION IS EXPECTED THE LATTER PART OF THE SUMMER. THIS PROJECT INCLUDES A NEW WATER FILTRATION PLANT, IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WINONA PLANT, AS WELL AS THREE NEW WATER STORAGE TANKS; THIS WILL PROVIDE US WITH BOTH IMPROVED WATER QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION CAPABILITIES. THIS PROGRAM WILL ASSURE US AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF HAVING SUFFICIENT QUALITY WATER FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

WE ALSO ANNOUNCED LAST JANUARY WE WERE IN THE PLANNING STAGES FOR A NEW PUBLIC SERVICES FACILITY. THIS NEW \$5 MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT IS NOW DESIGNED, THE SITE WORK IS NEAR COMPLETION, THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING WILL START IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND THE COMPLETION IS SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF THE YEAR.

WE ALSO MADE A PLEDGE OF \$5 MILLION DOLLARS FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS WHICH WE HAVE FULFILLED. THUS FAR APPROXIMATELY \$1.5 MILLION DOLLARS HAS BEEN SPENT FOR SCHOOL FURNITURE, BUILDING REPAIRS, AND IMPROVEMENTS. INCLUDED IN THIS TOTAL IS ONE HALF MILLION DOLLARS FOR PHASE II OF OUR COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY PLAN. THIS BRINGS THE TWO YEAR TOTAL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY IN OUR SCHOOLS TO \$1 MILLION DOLLARS, THEREBY PROVIDING OUR

STUDENTS WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT, AND PREPARING THEM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY IN THE AREA OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY.

THE REMAINING \$3.5 MILLION DOLLARS HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR A NUMBER OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS OVER THE NEXT YEAR. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT, DR. PERULLO, AND THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN CREATING A WORKING RELATIONSHIP THAT ENABLES US TO SOLVE PROBLEMS, RECOGNIZE SUCCESSES, IMPROVE ON OUR STRENGTHS AND CORRECT OUR WEAKNESSES. I BELIEVE THIS WILL ENABLE US TO CREATE AN IMPROVED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.

OVER THE PAST YEAR THE FOLLOWING STEPS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED TO BUILD AN 18 HOLE GOLF COURSE. THE MARKET STUDY HAS BEEN COMPLETED INDICATING SUFFICIENT REVENUES TO OFFSET COSTS, A CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT IS DONE, AND A \$500,000 GRANT FROM THE DIVISION

OF CONSERVATION SERVICES UNDER THE URBAN SELF PROGRAM HAS BEEN AWARDED. IT APPEARS WE HAVE COME TO AN AGREEMENT WITH EASTMAN GELATINE CORPORATION RELATIVE TO THE LAND NECESSARY FOR THE COURSE WITH THE LEGAL DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT. LASTLY, WE HAVE NARROWED DOWN THE FIELD OF ARCHITECTS WHO HAVE APPLIED TO DESIGN THE GOLF COURSE. OVER THE NEXT MONTH WE WILL BE INTERVIEWING THE FINALISTS AND MAKING A DECISION. IT IS OUR HOPE TO START CONSTRUCTION ONCE THE DESIGN WORK AND THE NECESSARY ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING IS COMPLETED.

A YEAR AGO WE WERE NEGOTIATING WITH THE COMMONWEALTH FOR A SUCCESSOR CONTRACT FOR MANAGING THE SKATING RINK. WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED A FIVE YEAR CONTRACT.

WE HAVE COMPLETED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE M.B.T.A. WE

ARE PLEASED THAT WE WERE ABLE TO RESTORE SERVICE TO PEABODY AND WE ARE WORKING TO EXPAND SERVICES AS WE HAD PROMISED.

WE COMPLETED OUR “DOWNTOWN 2005 PLAN” AS OUTLINED A YEAR AGO. THIS PLAN WILL PROVIDE US WITH A BLUEPRINT TO ASSURE CONTINUED REVITALIZATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN OUR DOWNTOWN AREA.

WE SET AS A GOAL TO FURTHER EXTEND UTILITIES ON JUBILEE DRIVE TO ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC GROWTH. NEEDLESS TO SAY WE ARE PLEASED AT THE OUTCOME. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS CONSTRUCTING A 123,000 SQUARE FOOT BUILDING, AND BOTH A & A INDUSTRIES AND BOSTON ACOUSTICS ARE ALREADY IN OPERATION ON JUBILEE DRIVE. THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL OF NEW INDUSTRIAL SPACE ON JUBILEE DRIVE TO 320,000 SQUARE FEET WITH ANOTHER 60,000 SQUARE FEET SCHEDULED FOR CONSTRUCTION THIS SPRING. WITH THE RECENT COMPLETION OF CHRISTIAN BOOK DISTRIBUTORS,

IT ADDS OVER 600,000 SQUARE FEET OF NEW INDUSTRIAL PLANT AND 700 JOBS. ALL COMBINED, THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL TO OVER 3 MILLION SQUARE FEET AND OVER 6,000 JOBS IN THE CENTENNIAL PARK AREA.

I AM ALSO PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS NOW AT A FAVORABLE 2.9%, WHICH CONTINUES TO BE BELOW BOTH THE STATE AND NATIONAL AVERAGES.

THIS PAST YEAR THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF OTHER INITIATIVES THAT I WOULD LIKE TO TOUCH ON. IN OUR REVOLVING LOAN FUND, WE MADE 11 LOANS WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF \$1,362,000, WHICH LEVERAGED NEARLY \$12 MILLION DOLLARS IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT, CREATING 135 NEW JOBS.

IN OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC, SAFETY AND INFRASTRUCTURE, WE HAVE RECEIVED REDESIGN PROPOSALS FOR LOWELL AND LAKE STREETS, LOWELL AND PROSPECT

STREETS, AND LYNN AND COUNTY STREETS. I WILL BE
AWARDING DESIGN CONTRACTS SHORTLY.

ALSO, THE WILSON SQUARE DESIGN IS NEAR COMPLETION.
A PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD SHORTLY TO EXPLAIN
THE PROPOSAL AS OUTLINED BY THE COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS.

IN ADDITION, WE HAVE EXPENDED \$1 MILLION DOLLARS
ON STREET AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS.

IN SPITE OF THE MANY IMPROVEMENTS WE HAVE MADE
OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE MAGNITUDE OF THE
OCTOBER STORM DEMONSTRATES THAT THE NEED FOR
ADDITIONAL DRAINAGE WORK REMAINS. WE HAVE PUT
TOGETHER A COMPREHENSIVE DRAINAGE PLAN AND HAVE
APPLIED FOR A \$10.4 MILLION DOLLAR F.E.M.A. HAZARD
MITIGATION GRANT TO ELIMINATE DRAINAGE PROBLEMS IN
DOWNTOWN PEABODY.

WE CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF

THE SEWER TREATMENT PLANT AT THE SOUTH ESSEX SEWER DISTRICT, WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY 65% COMPLETED. THOUGH THE PLANT IS A MAJOR FINANCIAL BURDEN TO THE MEMBER COMMUNITIES, SOME RELIEF HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY BEING UNDER BUDGET, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, FROM THE AMENDMENT FILED BY SENATOR FRED BERRY FOR RATE RELIEF WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

THOUGH THE FINANCIAL IMPACT IS STILL SUBSTANTIAL, I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT DESPITE PEABODY HAVING THE LARGEST ASSESSMENT IN THE DISTRICT, WE HAVE THE LOWEST RATE STRUCTURE FOR SEWER AND WATER. AS A MATTER OF FACT, DISTRICT MEMBERS HAVE RAISED RATES TWICE SINCE PEABODY'S LAST INCREASE, AND WE BELIEVE THAT OUR WATER RATES WILL NOT BE RAISED IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR. WE ARE NOW REVIEWING THE SEWER RATE STRUCTURE TO DETERMINE IF ANY ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE

NECESSARY.

IN 1996 WE BEGAN IMPLEMENTATION OF A \$500,000 SMALL CITIES GRANT FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF COMMUNITIES AND DEVELOPMENT. WITH THESE FUNDS, 45 HOUSING UNITS HAVE BEEN RENOVATED IN OUR OLDER DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOODS. WE HAVE BUILT A NEW PLAYGROUND AT THE NORTH SHORE FAMILY CENTER, AND WE HAVE MADE LIFE BETTER FOR MANY OF OUR CITIZENS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS BY PROVIDING FUNDING TO THE HAVEN FROM HUNGER, ADULT DAY CARE CENTER AT THE PEABODY COMMUNITY LIFE CENTER, INN BETWEEN HOMELESS SHELTER, AND PASSOS AVANTE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM. THE FUNDS GIVEN TO THESE AGENCIES WILL HELP THEM PROVIDE SERVICES TO MANY OF THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN OURSELVES.

THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING AND MANAGING SEVERAL STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS. THESE GRANTS ARE AIMED AT OUR OLDER

HOUSING STOCK, PROVIDING FOR 70 ADDITIONAL HOUSING UNITS TO BE REVITALIZED.

AS THE LEAD COMMUNITY, PEABODY IS PLEASED TO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ADMINISTERED THE FEDERAL HOME PROGRAM FUNDS FOR THE NORTH SHORE HOME CONSORTIUM FOR THE 21 CITIES AND TOWNS IN ESSEX COUNTY.

WE ARE ALSO THE LEAD COMMUNITY FOR THE REGIONAL LEAD PAINT REMOVAL PROGRAM. WE HAVE RECEIVED \$300,000 WHICH HAS LEVERAGED OTHER FUNDS AND TO DATE 60 HOMES HAVE HAD DANGEROUS LEAD PAINT REMOVED FROM THEIR PROPERTIES.

ALSO, IN 1996, 20 FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS WERE AWARDED DOWNPAYMENT ASSISTANCE MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO PURCHASE A HOME, FULFILLING THE AMERICAN DREAM. WE ARE MANAGING MORE HOUSING PROGRAMS AT THIS TIME THAN AT ANY TIME DURING MY ADMINISTRATION.

IN REGARDS TO OTHER COMMUNITY CONCERNS, PHASE ONE OF PROVIDING CIVILIAN DISPATCHERS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN COMPLETED. ADDITIONAL STAFF WILL BE SELECTED AND TRAINED IN THE NEAR FUTURE THEREBY FREEING UP POLICE OFFICERS TO DO A BROADER RANGE OF POLICE WORK.

I EXPECT TO RECEIVE THE STUDY BEING DONE BY FOCUS CONSULTING, INC., CONCERNING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE WEEKS. I HOPE THAT COLLECTIVELY WE CAN WORK TOGETHER AND UTILIZE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL ENHANCE THE IMAGE OF OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT AND MAKE IT THE BEST IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

IN ORDER TO EXPAND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES, WE STARTED THIS YEAR THE INSTALLATION OF LIGHTS AT BOTH THE SOCCER AND BASEBALL FIELDS AT P.V.M.H.S. THIS PROGRAM SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THIS SPRING. ALSO IN 1997 WE WILL

BE UPDATING OUR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN. THIS IS REQUIRED TO BE DONE EVERY 5 YEARS, IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING FOR STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS.

LAST YEAR I TALKED ABOUT EXPANDING COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF BRINGING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER, WHETHER IT BE FESTIVALS, CONCERTS OR OTHER CULTURAL EVENTS. I AM PLEASED THAT WE WERE ABLE TO HAVE MANY EVENTS THAT PROVIDED OUR CITIZENS WITH HAPPY MOMENTS. THIS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT THE HELP OF THE NUMEROUS VOLUNTEERS WHO GAVE UNSELFISHLY OF THEMSELVES, WHO TRULY CARE ABOUT OUR CITY AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE ITS CITIZENS DESERVE. FOR THIS REASON, I DEDICATE THIS MORNING'S MIDTERM INAUGURAL ADDRESS TO THE VOLUNTEERS, LIKE ROSE ROBINSON AND ARTHUR GORDON OF THE PRIDE IN

PEABODY COMMITTEE, DONNA HEALEY OF THE HARVEST FESTIVAL COMMITTEE, JUDY SELESNICK OF THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL COMMITTEE, KATHY WALSH, NANCY CLAY AND JUDY WOJCIK OF THE CITY HALL CONCERT COMMITTEE, AS WELL AS OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS SUCH AS THE P.V.M.H.S. JR. ROTC, THE GARDEN CLUBS AND THE PEABODY EXPLORERS, AND THE HUNDREDS OF OTHERS TOO NUMEROUS TO NAME THAT I HAVE HAD THE HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO WORK WITH.

IN 1996, WE WERE ALSO HONORED BY BEING SELECTED AS FIRST PLACE WINNERS OF THE KENNETH E. PICKARD MEMORIAL INNOVATION AWARD. THIS AWARD IS SPONSORED EACH YEAR BY THE MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION TO HONOR CITIES AND TOWNS THAT HAVE DEVELOPED UNIQUE AND CREATIVE PROGRAMS TO INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT. OUR SELECTION WAS BASED ON OUR INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT, AS WELL AS OUR EXTENSIVE AWARD

INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

MANY PROGRAMS WERE STARTED IN 1996 AND WILL CONTINUE THROUGH 1997. THEY INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WATER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, CONSTRUCTION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE FACILITY, THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE GOLF COURSE, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN THE SCHOOLS. WE WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO MANAGE OUR RESOURCES FOR FUTURE FINANCIAL STABILITY.

WE WILL BE WORKING WITH LANDOWNERS TO NEGOTIATE EASEMENTS FOR THE RIVERWALK, AND PREPARING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT. WE WILL ALSO BE MEETING WITH PROPERTY OWNERS ALONG MAIN STREET TO WORK OUT LOCATIONS FOR MORE EFFICIENT PARKING LOTS WITH ADDITIONAL SPACES.

THE BIKEWAY PROGRAM HAS BEEN FUNDED WITH FEDERAL

ENHANCEMENT MONEY FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS ARE NEARLY COMPLETE, PUBLIC MEETINGS WILL BE HELD THIS SPRING BEFORE GOING OUT TO BID WITH CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULED LATER THIS YEAR.

WE WILL BE UPDATING OUR CITY WIDE TRANSPORTATION STUDY, LOOKING NOT ONLY AT THE EXISTING ROADWAY NETWORK AND HOW IT CAN BE IMPROVED, BUT ALSO MANAGEMENT ISSUES SUCH AS ENFORCEMENT, ALTERNATE FORMS OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

WE WILL BE SUBMITTING TO THE COUNCIL IN THE NEAR FUTURE, TWO ORDINANCES FOR YOUR REVIEW AND APPROPRIATE ACTION. ONE BEING A REVISED SIGN ORDINANCE, THE OTHER BEING A GROUND WATER PROTECTION ORDINANCE.

SINCE BEING DESIGNATED AN ENTITLEMENT CITY BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF COMMUNITIES AND DEVELOPMENT, WE WILL BE SECURING \$600,000 THIS YEAR FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

PROGRAM. THESE FUNDS WILL BE UTILIZED FOR HOUSING REHABILITATION, VARIOUS SOCIAL PROGRAMS AND NEW STREET IMPROVEMENTS AND WATER LINES FOR DRISCOLL STREET.

WE HAVE ALL BEEN READING ABOUT THE SERIOUS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING COUNTY GOVERNMENT IN MASSACHUSETTS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ESSEX COUNTY. AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ESSEX COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD WHICH IS THE APPROPRIATING AUTHORITY, I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT ESSEX COUNTY HAS THE ONLY APPROVED BUDGET IN MASSACHUSETTS AND THE ONLY LEVY RESERVE. HOWEVER, I DO BELIEVE STRUCTURAL CHANGE IS NECESSARY. I WILL BE WORKING WITH MY COUNTERPARTS IN SALEM, BEVERLY, AND DANVERS TO DEVELOP A REGIONAL COMPACT THAT WILL DEVELOP FROM THE BOTTOM UP AND WILL EXPAND IN SIZE BY CHOICE, AS OPPOSED TO LEGISLATIVE MANDATE.

WE ARE APPROACHING A UNIQUE EVENT IN ALL OF OUR LIVES - THE TRANSITION FROM THE SECOND TO THE THIRD MILLENIUM. WE WILL THEREFORE BE PUTTING TOGETHER A COMMITTEE TO START THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR A MAJOR CELEBRATION WELCOMING THE START OF THE 21ST CENTURY, A CELEBRATION THAT PAYS TRIBUTE TO OUR PAST AND HOPE FOR OUR FUTURE.

THOUGH THERE ARE MANY OTHER ISSUES WE WILL BE DISCUSSING AT DIFFERENT FORUMS DURING THE COURSE OF THE YEAR AHEAD, THIS MORNING I STAND BEFORE YOU WITH A DEEP SENSE OF PRIDE KNOWING WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT COMMANDS RESPECT, WHERE HOUSING VALUES ARE INCREASING, WHERE SERVICES ARE WELL DELIVERED, WHERE PEOPLE CAN AFFORD TO LIVE, WHERE MUTUAL RESPECT IS IMPORTANT. CAN WE DO BETTER, CERTAINLY! THE ONLY THING THAT CAN PREVENT US FROM REACHING GREATER HEIGHTS IS OUR INABILITY TO GOVERN IN THE BEST INTEREST

OF OUR CITIZENS. SIMPLY PUT, IF PETTY POLITICS DICTATES, IF ONLY THE MOST VOCAL ARE HEARD, IF WE SAY NO TO SOLUTIONS WITHOUT OFFERING ALTERNATIVES, IF WE LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT WE REPRESENT NEARLY 50,000 PEOPLE AND WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THEIR INTERESTS, OR WE ALLOW PERSONAL FEELINGS TO CLOUD SOUND JUDGMENT, THEN THE END RESULT WILL BE FAILURE. AS ELECTED OFFICIALS WE MUST ASK OURSELVES IN WHICH WAY CAN I BETTER SERVE MY COMMUNITY. IF WE ARE TRULY CONCERNED ABOUT DOING A BETTER JOB AND SERVING THE NEEDS OF OUR CITY, THEN I BELIEVE THERE IS MORE THAT BRINGS US TOGETHER THEN DIVIDES US AS A GOVERNMENT.

A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO I MADE A COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY TO BRING STRONG LEADERSHIP TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE AND TO WORK TIRELESSLY TO MAKE PEABODY A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE. THIS MORNING I RENEW

**THAT PLEDGE AND ASK THE CITY COUNCIL, PUBLIC OFFICIALS
AS WELL AS OTHERS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY FOR
YOUR HELP, YOUR SUPPORT, YOUR GUIDANCE AND YOUR
PRAYERS.**

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS.

